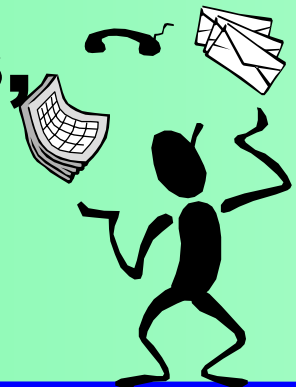


# Erie County PBT and UAT Case Study



# Project Background

- **Project funded through USEPA**
- **Focus on reducing PBTs and UATs through identifying and changing products the County is purchasing**
- **Also providing technical assistance to private companies**
- **Outreach to other governments, institutions and schools**

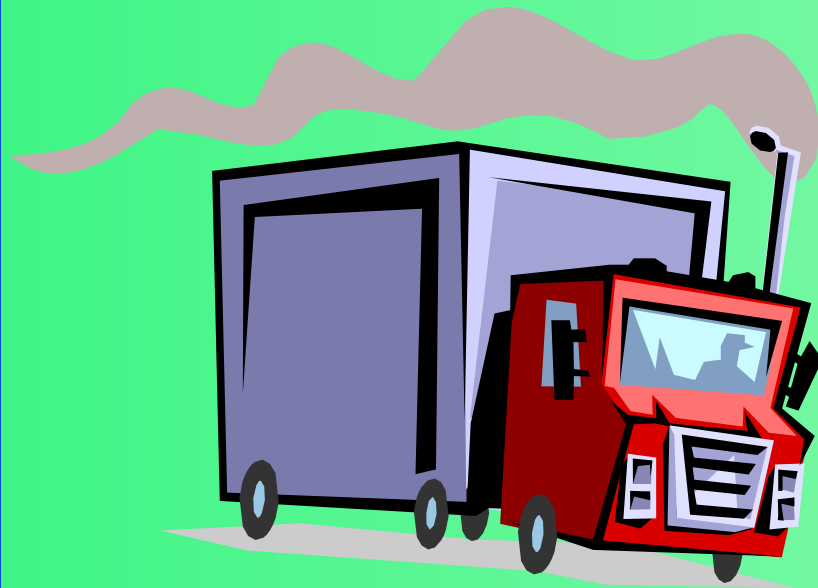


# Alphabet Soup

- **PBTs = Persistent, Bioaccumulative AND Toxic Chemicals**
- **Originally working from a draft list of 53 chemicals, some banned pesticides**
- **USEPA updated list this month (9/02) - 30 Chemicals called “Waste Minimization Priority List”**



# More Soup

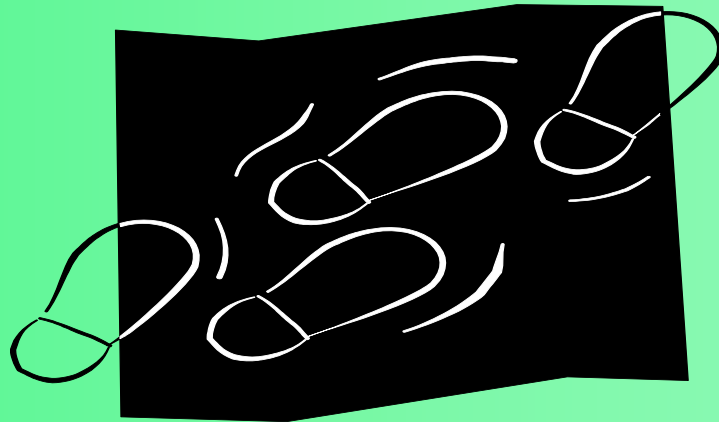


- **UATs = Urban Air Toxics**
- **List of 33 Chemicals**
- **Some overlap with PBT/Waste Minimization List**



## First Steps

- **Worked with Bureau of Purchase to identify commodities that might be toxic**
- **Tracked down MSDSs for suspicious products**
- **Identified one product to target whose only ingredient was a PBT:  
Para-dichlorobenzene in Urinal Blocks**



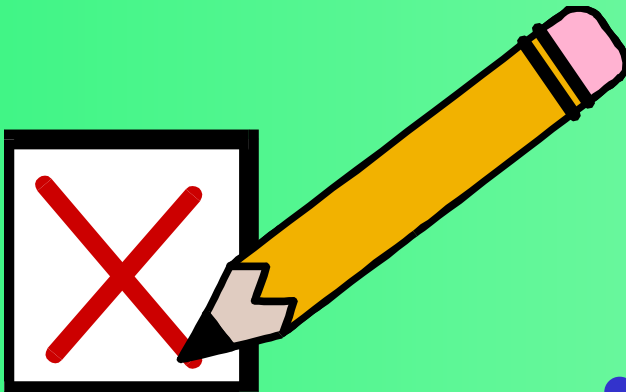
# Para-dichlorobenzene in Urinal Blocks

- **Para-dichlorobenzene is classified as a possible carcinogen.**
- **Urinal Blocks are used only to deodorize, not sanitize.**
- **Alternative products and methods are readily available.**



# Making the Switch

- **INFORM assisted Erie County in reviewing MSDSs for alternative products, and researching alternative methods.**
- **Pilot studies were conducted in 3 different departments: Libraries, Parks, and Buildings & Grounds.**



# Pilot Study Results

- **2 of the 4 products tested met the needs of the departments**
- **These products were added to the Janitorial Products Invitation to Bid**
- **The para-containing blocks were removed from the bid**





# Cost Considerations

- **Less-toxic blocks were significantly more expensive: \$10 more per dozen**
- **But when viewed within the overall budget, the commitment was made to make the change.**

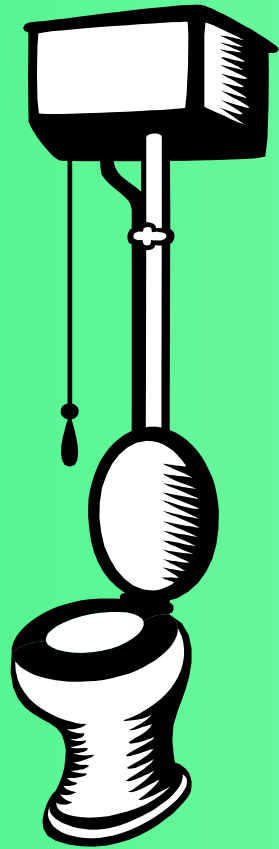


# **Erie County's Purchasing Impact**

**Erie County was purchasing more than 8,000 4 oz. Urinal Blocks per year; totaling 2,000 pounds of para-dichlorobenzene that was released to the environment annually.**



# Paper Products



- **Toilet paper and paper towels**
- **Chosen to be addressed next because of expiring bid**



# Why the Concern?

- **Paper bleached with chlorine is known to release dioxin (PBT) as an unintentional byproduct**
- **Dioxin is thought to be one of the most toxic chemicals known**
- **Paper products made from virgin fibers require more energy**
- **Combustion of fossil fuels can result in release of mercury (PBT)**



# How the Changes Were Made

- **Erie County DEP worked with Bureau of Purchase to review current bid and products**
- **Some recycled, chlorine free products were already being purchased, but they weren't specified**
- **INFORM and recycled paper product manufacturers helped create wording for new bid**



# Results

- **Easy transition because some products were already being used**
- **No increase in costs**



# Batteries

- **Many County employees expressed concern about batteries**
- **Wanted to encourage rechargeable battery purchases**
- **But needed to address toxic metals (PBTs)**



# **Toxins in Rechargeable Batteries**

- **Cadmium**
- **Lead**
- **Nickel**



- **According to USEPA, batteries account for a disproportionate amount of the toxic metals contained in municipal solid waste**





# Outreach/Education

- **Several presentations given on why and how to recycle rechargeable batteries**
- **Provided technical assistance to departments who were not recycling**
- **Collection Box established for rechargeable batteries from home**
- **Outreach assistance to local municipalities**



# Rechargeable Battery Recycling



- **County has vendor to recycle batteries - currently Environmental Services Group**
- **Batteries from home can be recycled at drop-off site in Room 1077 in Rath Building or at many major stores, such as Target and Radio Shack. For a more complete list, visit [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org)**



# **Current Product Pilot Test: Bio-based Oil**

- **Bio-based lubricants were tested in lawn mowers for Erie County golf course during Summer 2002**



# Pilot Study Details

- **INFORM**  
assisted the  
County in  
selecting bio-  
based lubricant  
for test
- **Parks**  
Department  
agreed to test  
on 2 mowers
- **Motivation to  
use this product:**  
reduce  
risk/damage in  
the case of a  
spill
- **Potential reason  
for resistance:**  
significantly  
more expensive



# Results

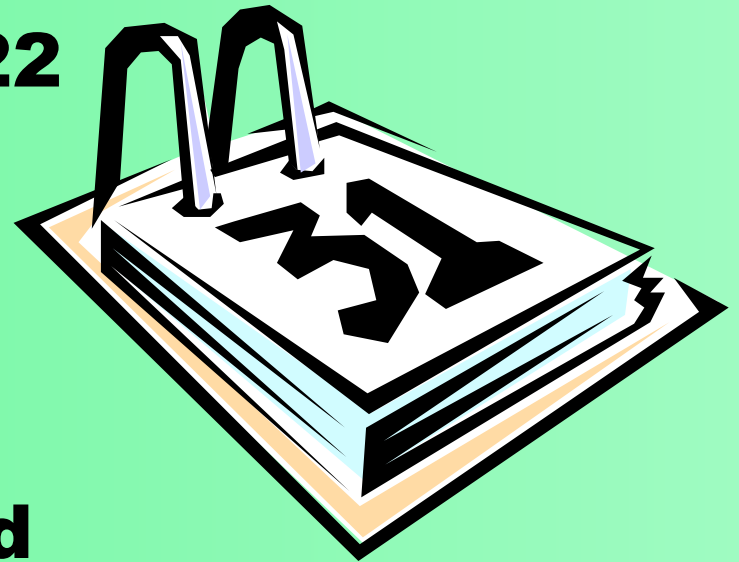


- **Evaluation of bio-based oil was compiled at the end of the golf season**
- **Decision regarding future purchase of product to be determined**



# Recent Events

- **Open House during  
Pollution Prevention  
Week: September 16-22**
- **Featured Product  
Displays and Samples**
- **Invited Guests:  
Department Heads and  
Requisition Clerks**



# Upcoming Projects

- **Creation of an Erie County EPP web site with product information**
- **E-mailing updates to interested parties through intranet listserv**



# Next Major Product to Examine

- **Non-chlorine bleached, 100 % post consumer recycled copy paper**





# Current Process for Identifying Products

- **Working with the Erie County Environmental Compliance Specialist who assesses all County facilities to identify products being used which contain PBTs**
- **Creating a database of PBT-containing products**
- **Working with INFORM to identify alternatives**



# What You Can Do to Help

- **Make sure MSDSs are current**
- **Review MSDSs**
- **Look for PBTs and UATs**
- **Request products without the targeted chemicals**



# For More Information

- **Staff at the County's Offices of Pollution Prevention are available to provide assistance**
- **Contact Bonnie Lawrence ([lawrencb@erie.gov](mailto:lawrencb@erie.gov)) or Lauren Makeyenko ([makeyenl@erie.gov](mailto:makeyenl@erie.gov))**
- **Call (716) 858 - 6370**

